

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 10570 150919Z  
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W  
-----052190 150922Z /10

P 150837Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8205  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OREP KS US  
SUBJ: REACTION TO AMBASSADOR'S DEC 12 SPEECH ON K-A RELATIONS

1. AMBASSADOR'S DECEMBER 12 SPEECH TO KOREAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION DREW WIDE ATTENTION IN SEOUL PRESS AND PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS. INTELLECTUAL AND GOVERNMENT CIRCLES INDICATED (A) SURPRISE AT AND RESPECT FOR AMBASSADOR'S CANDOR; (B) GENERALLY PERCEPTIVE RECOGNITION OF OVERALL INTENT, (C) INCREASED PUBLIC CONCERN FOR PARK TONG-SON CASE.

2. ALL SEOUL SAW SPEECH AS POLICY RATHER THAN ONE MAN'S OPINION. "WESTERN CANDOR", AS ONE INFORMANT CALLED IT, TOOK KOREANS BY SURPRISE, THOUGH ONE COMMENTED THAT, WHILE A KOREAN SHOULD HAVE SAID THIS, ONLY AMERICAN COULD REALLY DO SO. INDIVIDUALS' RESPONSES TO FRANKNESS GENERALLY TRACKED WITH ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONTENT.

3. MOST SEEM TO HAVE PERCEIVED THAT PURPOSE WAS TO CLARIFY STATE OF CHANGING RELATIONSHIP AND IDENTIFY POINTS OF CONTENTION WHICH MUST BE PROPERLY DEALT WITH AT THIS STAGE TO PREVENT PERMANENT DAMAGE LATER. STATEMENT THAT WARM RELATIONS DO NOT DEVELOP OR ENDURE AUTOMATICALLY WAS UPSETTING TO MANY, TO WHOM IT IMPLIED AN END TO COMFORTABLE UNCONDITIONAL, PATERNAL RELATIONSHIP. BUT WAS CONTRADICTED BY  
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 10570 150919Z

NONE AND HAS GIVEN FOOD FOR SERIOUS THOUGHT. POINT THAT TRANSITION FROM PATRON-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP TO ONE OF NATIONAL EQUALITY DOES NOT OCCUR INDEPENDENTLY BUT REQUIRES TENDING AND GUIDANCE WAS WIDELY APPRECIATED.

4. GREATEST REACTION, BY VOLUME, WAS TO REMARKS ON PARK TONG-SON CASE. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE DEFENSIVE

CRITICISM OF U.S. HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR, NET EFFECT ON  
LOCAL OPINION SEEMS TO BE MORE LUCID APPRECIATION OF THE  
DAMAGE THE PARK ISSUE CAN CAUSE, SHARPER CONCERN WITH CON-  
CLUDING THE CASE.

5. MANY INFORMANTS HAVE LITTLE TO SAY AT THIS POINT, PARTLY  
BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITY OF SUBJECT MATTER AND PARTLY  
BECAUSE THE MORE THOUGHTFUL ARE STILL DIGESTING THE MAJOR  
REPAST WHICH WAS SERVED THEM.  
SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SPEECHES, AMBASSADORS  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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